



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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County Library Literacy Program Needs More Volunteer Tutors ***Make a Profound Difference in Someone's Life***

Illiteracy affects more than 400,000 adults in San Diego County. The County Library's new adult literacy program, L.E.A.R.N (Libraries Empower All to Read Now), invites you to become a volunteer tutor and change someone's life by teaching them to read. Scores of people have signed up for the program and are awaiting the opportunity to have someone work with them in gaining the reading and writing skills that support lifelong learning, self-help and success.

Tutors receive training and continual support from County Library literacy program staff. L.E.A.R.N. matches English-speaking adult learners with trained volunteer tutors, creating a team that works together for a minimum of six months. Most teams meet for 90 minutes twice weekly within the friendly confines of a County Library branch. For a list of the 32 County Library system locations, see: www.sdcl.org or the government section of the phone directory under San Diego – County of – Libraries.

The headquarters for the L.E.A.R.N Literacy Center, which is located in the El Cajon Branch Library, serves all 32 branches. With six computers and several tables for tutoring sessions, the Literacy Center boasts a growing collection of materials to help maximize the potential of each tutor-learner team, from basic skills and General Educational Development (GED) workbooks to leisure reading and life-skills texts.

The program is entirely learner-centered, meaning that curriculum is based on each learner's individual goals, which can vary widely, from helping children with schoolwork, to getting a promotion at work, to simply reading the newspaper.

There are many causes for each learner's struggles. For many, English is a new language that they have worked diligently to learn, but have yet to master. Others were passed from grade to grade in school without a proper diagnosis of a learning disability, and have gone through their lives

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masking their difficulties. Whatever the causes, our learners share an excitement and dedication to maximizing their potential.

Upcoming Tutor Training sessions are scheduled at four branch locations:

- Saturday, April 22, 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.: Bonita Branch Library, 4375 Bonita Rd., Bonita.
- Saturday, April 29, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.: Vista Branch Library, 700 Eucalyptus Ave., Vista.
- Tuesday, May 2 and Wednesday, May 3, 5:00-8:00 p.m. El Cajon Branch Library, 201 E. Douglas Ave., El Cajon. (Two parts in two evenings)
- Saturday, May 20, 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. San Marcos Branch Library, #2 Civic Center Drive, San Marcos.

More information about the L.E.A.R.N. Adult Literacy Program can be found on the web at:

www.sdcl.org/Literacy_Main.html.

“Call us at (888) 466-0668 or email us at learnstaff@sdcounty.ca.gov with questions and to sign up for tutor training,” says Literacy Coordinator Amanda Schukle. “You can make a significant difference in the life of an adult, his or her family, and your community!”

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